

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A method of decreasing viral replication in
2 cells, the method comprising decreasing levels of
3 functional cellular protease in the cells.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels
2 of functional cellular protease comprises decreasing
3 cellular protease gene expression in the cells.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein decreasing
2 cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the
3 cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease
4 gene expression.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the compound is
2 an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular
3 protease gene.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels
2 of functional cellular protease comprises exposing the
3 cells to an inhibitor of the functional cellular
4 protease.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cellular
2 protease is calpain.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein decreasing levels
2 of functional calpain comprises exposing the cells to a
3 calpain inhibitor.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the calpain
2 inhibitor is E64D or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

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1 9. A method of treating or preventing a viral
2 infection in a subject, the method comprising
3 administering to the subject an amount of a compound
4 effective to decrease levels of functional cellular
5 protease in cells of the subject.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound
2 decreases levels of functional cellular protease by
3 decreasing cellular protease gene expression.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein decreasing
2 cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the
3 cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease
4 gene expression.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is
2 an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular
3 protease gene.

1 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound is
2 an inhibitor of the functional cellular protease.

1 14. The method of claim 9 wherein the cellular
2 protease is calpain.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the compound is
2 an inhibitor of the cellular protease.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the calpain
2 inhibitor is E64d or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

1 17. The method of claim 9 wherein the viral
2 infection is caused by a DNA virus.

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1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the DNA virus is
2 a human cytomegalovirus, a herpes simplex virus, or a
3 varicellar zoster virus.